

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) BR
SUBJ: CARDINAL ARNS TALKS TO JORNAL DO BRAZIL ABOUT MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER

SUMMARY: IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO JORNAL DO BRASIL MARCH 20,
CARDINAL ARNS SAID HE WOULD NOT TALK ABOUT INTERNAL
BRAZILIAN MATTERS WITH THE PRESIDENT, SINCE THAT WOULD BE "ABSURD".
ARNs SAID HE WOULD KEEP CONVERSATION TO GENERAL MATTERS OF WORLD
CONCERN. THE CARDINAL ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF
A HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER, BUT MERELY EXPRESSED THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.
COMMENTED THE CARDINAL'S INTERVIEW IS SEEN AS HIS DEFENSE AGAINST
POSSIBLE ACCUSATIONS OF INVITING U.S. INTERFERENCE IN BRAZILIAN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
END SUMMARY:

1. DURING COURSE OF AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, JORNAL DO BRASIL
ASKED CARDINAL WHAT WAS MOTIVE FOR HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER, WHY HE WAS CHOSEN INSTEAD OF PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL
BISHOPS CONFERENCE OR THE PRIMATE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BRAZIL.
CARDINAL QUOTED AS REPLYING, "THE FIRST TIME I MET WITH CARTER
WAS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME. I LIKED HIS PERSONALITY,
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ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT APPROVE OF MANY ASPECTS OF HIS POLICY. BUT
HE IS NOT COMING TO DISCUSS BRAZIL WITH ME, BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE
ABSURD. INTERNAL QUESTIONS ABOUT BRAZIL ARE A CHALLENGE FOR JUST
US. I NEVER THOUGHT OF TAKING THEM TO OTHERS. BUT (QUESTIONS) ABOUT
THE WORLD ARE COMMON TALKS, LIKE THE PROBLEM OF A NEW WORLD
ECONOMIC ORDER AND INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN NATIONS. THIS IS WHAT
I WILL TAKE UP WITH CARTER, PROBLEMS LIKE THOSE OF THE MULTINATIONLS

AND OTHERS. THE POINTS WE MAY HAVE TO DISCUSS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH GREAT BREADTH. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE WILL DESIRE DETAILS BECAUSE HE HAS MORE CERTAIN SOURCES TO OBTAIN THESE DETAILS. WHAT I BELIEVE MUST INTEREST HIM IS MORE (ABOUT) THE INFLUENCE THAT DIVERSE PEOPLE (CAN HAVE) IN A WORLD WHERE THERE ARE SO MANY VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. OTHER QUESTIONS REVOLVED ABOUT ARNS' ROLE AS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL LEADER. ARNS STATED THAT HE MERELY EXPRESSED THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN SAO PAULO, AFTER LISTENING TO THEIR CONCERNS. AS FOR POLITICS, SOME OF THE CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE TOUCH ON POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT ARNS SAID HE AVOIDED PARTY POLITICS. HIS CONTACTS WITH POLITICIANS OCCURRED WHEN THEY SOUGHT HIM OUT, SAID ARNS, BECAUSE THEY HAVE FEW SOURCES OF INFORMATION, WHILE THE CHURCH IN SAO PAULO HAS SOME 1000 PRIESTS, 4000 NUNS AND THOUSANDS OF LAY WORKERS WHO KEEP THE CARDINAL INFORMED. CARDINAL ARNS ALSO REPEATED HIS STRONG CRITICISM OF STATEMENTS MADE LAST WEEK AGAINST BISHOPS IN THE STATE OF PARA BY GEN. EUCLIDES FIGUEIREDO, BROTHER OF PRESIDENT DESIGNATE GEN. JOAO BAPTISTA FIGUEIREDO. ARNS SAID THAT EUCLIDES FIGUEIREDO HAD SPOKEN AS IF THE BISHOPS WERE AT HIS SERVICE INSTEAD OF THE SERVICE OF GOD. HE SAID THAT THE GENERAL WAS KILOMETERS OFF BASE.

COMMENT: SINCE THE MEETING BETWEEN CARDINAL ARNS AND THE PRESIDENT WAS CONFIRMED, THE CARDINAL HAS BEEN AT PAINS TO DEFEND HIMSELF PUBLICLY FROM THE POSSIBLE ACCUSATION THAT HE WOULD INVITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. INTERFERENCE IN BRAZILIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
CHAPIN

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